



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

September 1 to September 15, 2003



NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Week of 9/15: Police in Chicago linked a handgun recovered from a passenger in a vehicle to two previous crimes utilizing ballistic imaging through NIBIN. Police responded to a call for a person with a gun who was sitting in a vehicle. When police arrived, the passenger left the vehicle and fled on foot throwing the gun away as he ran. The firearm was recovered, test fired and imaged into IBIS. The driver identified the passenger only by a street name. Ten months earlier two individuals stole a quantity of crack cocaine from two suspects. The individuals drove off with the suspects chasing them, and one of the victims was shot during the pursuit. A fired bullet and casing were recovered and imaged into IBIS. Although the suspects were identified, no charges were filed. Three months later ballistic evidence was recovered at a murder scene and imaged into IBIS. Both crimes were linked to the test-fired handgun and the suspect was charged with murder and firearms violations.

Week of 9/8: The use of ballistic imaging assisted the Chicago Police Department in linking a firearm recovered from a suspect arrested for unlawful use of a weapon to three previous shootings over the course of a year. The first incident involved shots being fired at a vehicle by an unknown suspect. Fortunately, no one in the vehicle was injured; however, .40-caliber casings were recovered and entered into NIBIN. Eight months later, a witness reported hearing several gunshots and found a victim in a car. The victim was taken to a local hospital where he died. Police found casings from a .40-caliber gun at the scene of the shooting and entered them into NIBIN. A month later, several people traveling in a vehicle were cut off by a minivan. An unidentified suspect from the minivan fired into their vehicle and struck one of the occupants in the head. The victim later died at the hospital. Several .40-caliber casings were found at the scene of the shooting and entered into NIBIN. Two months later, a suspect was arrested by the Chicago Police Department for unlawful use of a weapon. A .40-caliber pistol with an obliterated serial number was taken from the suspect. The firearm was test fired and the casings entered into NIBIN. The IBIS system helped firearms examiners link the weapon to the three previous shooting incidents. The suspect is being held for firearms violations, including a felon in possession of a firearm.

Week of 9/1: Utilizing NIBIN, the New Orleans Police Department linked several vicious shootings to a notorious drug gang, resulting in a Federal grand jury recently handing down a 22-count indictment charging 11 defendants with numerous Federal firearms and narcotics violations. The violations included Federal conspiracy charges. The shootings began in 1997, when a victim was shot 11 times while leaving a food store. Two more murders occurred in 2000 and a fourth in 2001. Three attempted murders were also linked to the ballistic evidence. All shell casings recovered at the scenes were imaged into NIBIN after processing of the crime scenes. The linking of the firearms evidence resulted in the conspiracy charges against each of the defendants.